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Calling all Cree youth between 18 and 35 years old:

# CANOE THE EASTMAIN!

The Ease-Mhen-Ewe Sibi Pictorial History team are seeking adventurous, independent-minded youth this July and August to canoe the full 756km of the Eastmain River.

## WHAT?

The expedition will take off from Lake Brehat at the river's headwaters in the Otish Mountains and continue to its mouth at the Eastmain estuary. The purpose of the voyage is to collect a photographic and video case-history of the environmental impacts of the 1979 Eastmain diversion and the EM-1 and EM-1A hydro-electric projects. In addition to gathering the visual data, the team will also meet and interview Cree users of the river about the effects the Eastmain's reduced flow has had on traditional Cree practices.

## WHY?

The project will culminate with the production of a book-length photographic guide along with other multi-media detailing the changes to the landscape and telling the stories of the original Eastmain River and what it meant to the Cree people.

## WHO?

All youth between 18 and 35 years old are invited to apply and join the project team and play a central part in this cultural heritage rejuvenation project. Special consideration given to those with:

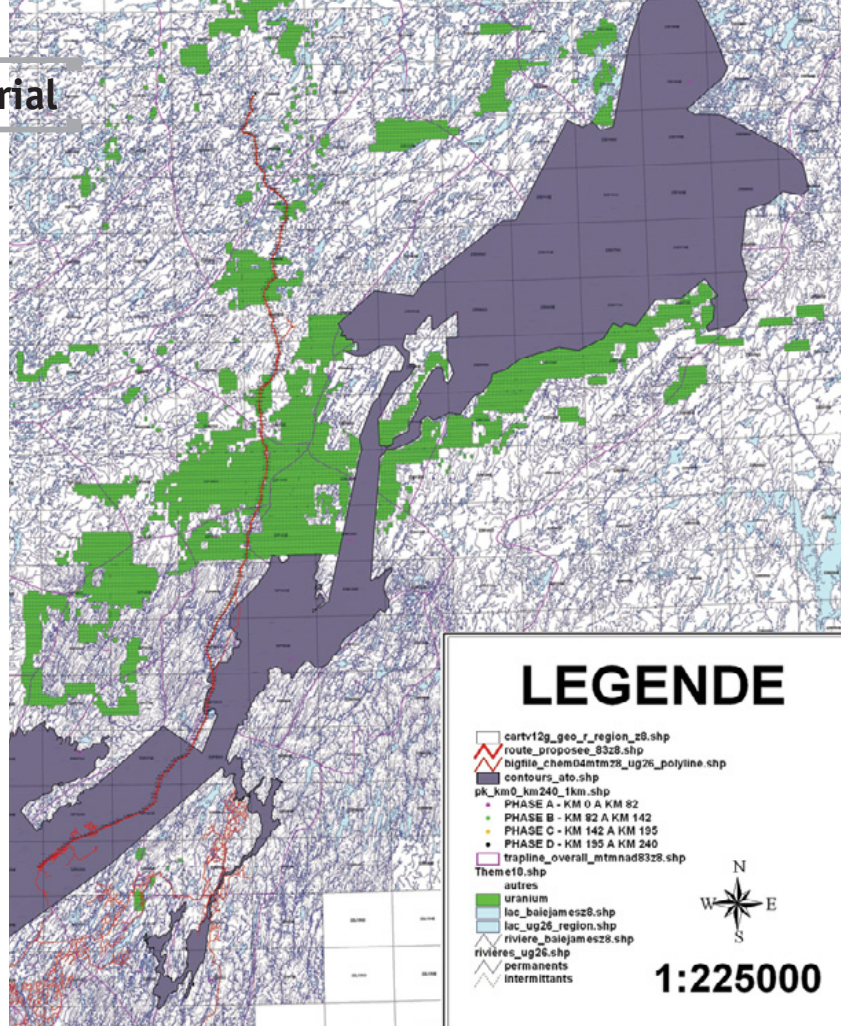
- Experience in previous canoe expeditions.
- Knowledge of still photography and videography.
- Demonstrated leadership qualities.

*To be considered, please send short one-page letter to Mr. Rusty Cheezo at [rcheezo@tlb.sympatico.ca](mailto:rcheezo@tlb.sympatico.ca) outlining your prior experience and explaining why you should be chosen to participate in this exciting project. For more information call (819) 865-0061*



Cree Nation of Eastmain  
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## It's not only one community

By Will Nicholls

Uranium. The very word makes us cringe. Past experiences for Aboriginal peoples have been unpleasant to say the least. The Navajo people in the US were exposed to the toxic effects in the 1940s and 1950s. In Canada, the Dene of Great Bear Lake stated, "Without being told of the deadly hazards of radiation, our men carried radioactive ore and our families and children have been exposed to radiation for over 60 years."

It is understandable that Crees are concerned with the prospect of mining exploration concerning uranium in Eeyou Istchee. The above map shows just how extensive it could be. The map shows the protected area near the Otish Mountains, but surrounding it is the uranium exploration by mining companies.

The potential problems are not just something that could affect the commu-

nity of Mistissini. The watershed extends all the way to the James Bay area and because of that other communities should be questioning what might happen. An expert in the field looking at the claims being staked said if a majority of them went through, nobody is safe.

Part of the claims enter another watershed that goes into southern Quebec. So organizations trying to stop uranium mining there are unaware of how plans in northern Quebec could affect them.

While promises are being made of how there will be no impacts and how safe current mining practices are, it is time to get independent experts to assess what is happening. It is just not one mining company and it is not just one community that will be affected.

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photo by:  
Jesse Staniforth

# There's life out there

By Sonny Orr



By the time you read this, you will notice that there aren't very many occupied seats on the plane you are sitting on. That is simply due to one reason – yes, GOOSEBREAK!! You will also notice that there will hardly be anyone at the airport terminal, why? The same reason of course, GOOSEBREAK!! You may notice that everyone has some sort of white mask on their face, making them look like wrong-coloured raccoons, why? GOOSEBREAK!! If you hadn't noticed these things by now, then indeed, you are a first-time traveller to Eeyou Istchee (formerly known as northern Quebec until it was corrected), so welcome!

I welcome you in the absence of the chiefs and councils, staff, and everyone else in all communities who happen to be outdoors, at a hunting blind near a large flock of decoys, at this very instant. You may also notice that the month of May is torn out of your appointment book, because May just doesn't comply with official office rules and schedules.

If your plane happens to fly very low, advise the captain that during migration time for geese and other fowl, please climb quickly and descend at a sharp angle so that you will comply with the flight regulations that advise you that there are thousands of hunters underneath you with loaded guns and ready to shoot anything that flies. This may not be the official reason why planes shouldn't fly low over annual migration routes, but hey, it's good enough.

Another thing that will keep new travellers on their toes, is that it may just happen that due to the lack of other passengers, you may have the undivided attention of the lovely flight attendant, who may over-serve you non-allergenic sesame-seed treats and litres of cold drinks, or

again, I may be wrong to assume this. Whatever, if it seems that you may be the only person walking around at your destination in some Cree community, with a little dust twirling around for good measure, that's probably because you are the only one in town.

Magically, the numbers of local medical mysteries tend to disappear from local clinics, but are often replaced with burnt limbs from accidentally touching a hot wood stove, or some missing finger or hacked limb from gathering and chopping firewood. Once in a while, a victim of an overdose of canned food cooked in the can over open flames will appear groaning, but soon after, with burnt limbs and missing fingers and plenty of gastro medications for that burning gut, they will disappear back into the wilderness, never to be seen again until the last goose is gone or when the Pepto runs out.

Today, the return from the camp usually means that your favourite hockey team made it to the finals, and nothing, not even flocks of geese, will keep you away from your large-screen TV. The tradition of hockey and hunting, even though they start with the same letter, are worlds apart and are at conflict with what is now a tug of war between two loves. The new-age hunter can keep track of the score using his smartphone, so now tradition and technology are firmly gripped in the marriage made in heaven for the avid goose hunter. May the best goose win, ahem, I mean, best team.

Now that you, the lonely passenger on this flight, will understand why you are so lonely today and you will learn, one year, that May is not a month to do business up North, unless you already work alone. Signing off from my blind, just on the fringe of cellphone range...

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# On top again

## Cree hotel wins prestigious award in Val-d'Or

By Amy German

It has only been open for over a year and already the Quality Inn and Suites is going to have to clear some more shelf space for another award.

At the Val-d'Or Chamber of Commerce 32nd Annual Business Awards, CREECO and Val-d'Or Mayor Fernand Trahan of Trahan Holdings took home the prize for best overall business in Val-d'Or for 2011-2012 for their jointly owned hotel.

The award came as a big surprise to the partners who sat cheering on the other award recipients, not expecting anything at all.

"What is notable is that we were only open for 10 months when we submitted our application for the award," said Rodney W. Hester, Business Development Coordinator for CREECO.

"Normally the committee looks at businesses that have been open for over a year, so we're thinking, next year we'll be illegible to apply to a number of the other awards that are part of this gala and hopefully bring more award results to our business."

The partnership with Trahan, one of Val-d'Or's most prolific businessmen, is one of many for the CREECO team, and is most likely the one to have gained the most recognition in the shortest period of time.

After being open for only eight months, the hotel was awarded the national "Rookie of the Year" and provincial "Spirit of Hospitality" awards from the Choice Hotel Chain, beating out many other competitors from across Canada.

For Hester, the elements that make this partnership stand out is how the timing of this project came about – finding the right partner to work with and the hotel vacancy in Val-d'Or at an all-time low. For the past 40 years, Cree communities have also been hemorrhaging funds into Val-d'Or that would



Carole Ferderber, Fernand Trahan and Rodney W. Hester

never make their way back into Eeyou Istchee hands.

The fact that race relations have not always been smooth between the residents of Val d'Or and their Cree neighbours, the CREECO-Trahan partnership

community. This partnership is going to stand as an example all over Quebec as well as around our own community that it important for people from Val-d'Or to go into ventures with the people of the North.

"IF WE REALLY FOCUS AT THE POSITIVES THAT CAN COME OUT OF A RELATIONSHIP, THEN THOSE POSITIVES ARE GOING TO GET BIGGER AND BRIGHTER FOR US GOING FORWARD."

is such a worthy success that it continues to garner recognition.

"I think understanding each other, openness to understand one another, having that dialogue and focusing on the positive stuff. There is a tendency to look at the not-so-good stuff and if we focus on that, then they become really bigger than they are. If we really focus at the positives that can come out of a relationship, then those positives are going to get bigger and brighter for us going forward," said Hester.

And, Trahan is very much on the same page as Hester.

"It means that the hotel is a great success for the Cree Nation and my

"The Crees are very proud of this and as Mayor of Val-d'Or, my community is also very proud. We have become a real success story," said Trahan.

Considering how well the hotel is doing and the state of the economy in the North with the current mining boom, Trahan said he is feeling quite confident about the next hotel that the same partnership will be opening in Baie-Comeau.

"My job is to help them out and make sure that they have everything they need to make this next project a success," said Trahan.

## ***Congratulations to Dianne Ottereyes Reid for winning the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Award.***



We are extremely proud of Dianne for winning this prestigious award to "honour significant contributions and achievements by Canadians".

Being the president and CEO of the Board of Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute, her dedication in preserving the Cree culture is remarkable. Dianne helped forge a plan to build a centre that will be vital to the transfer of knowledge from the older generations to the youth and provide a centre for research, collection, education and communication that reaches throughout the nine communities of Eeyou Istchee.

Congratulations to you Dianne!

We wish to express our congratulations to Dianne in her on-going efforts to preserve Cree culture and the achievements she has been recognized for.

From  
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### **Discover another side of the Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert project.**

Go behind the scenes with Jimmy and Tommy Neeposh, William K. Gunner-Eenatuck, Josie Jimiken, Robert Coonishish, George Pisimopeo, Jérôme Gingras, Timothy Moses, Mylène Landry, Johnny Saganash and many others.

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# The next generation

## Cree Nation Youth Council prepares for upcoming elections

Brandon Judd

The Cree Nation Youth Council prepares for its upcoming elections, which will produce a new Youth Grand Chief and Deputy Youth Grand Chief.

Nomination forms were distributed to Youth Departments across Eeyou Itschee during the month of March. The nomination process – candidates were required to gather 10 supporting signatures – resulted in seven Cree youth being nominated for the Youth Grand Chief position; five were nominated for the deputy position. After several nominees declined the opportunity to run, ballots will bear five candidates for Youth Grand Chief and three for the deputy.

The candidates for Youth Grand Chief are:

- Samantha Awashish, nominated by her hometown of Mistissini.
- Jeremy Diamond, nominated by Nemaska, where he lives, and by Wemindji.
- Kevin House, who hails from and was nominated by Chisasibi.
- Joshua Iserhoff, from Nemaska but nominated by Eastmain, Waswanipi and Oujé.
- Shadrock Trapper, the Chisasibi native who is the town's other nominee.

The candidates for the Deputy Youth Grand Chief are:

- Kenneth M. Tanoush, nominated by his hometown of Nemaska

- Catherine Washipabano, from and nominated by Chisasibi
- Samson Wischee, Mistissini's nominee who lives in Waskaganish

The CNYC is hoping for a big turnout, and for an election where all the candidates have an opportunity to introduce themselves to the 13-to-35-year-olds who comprise the eligible voting block.

"We made the campaign period longer because we're hoping we'll get more voters that way," said Stacy Bear, the current Youth Grand Chief. "We want to get the young people of the community more informed about who's running so they can make a better decision who to vote for, rather than just voting for who they know."

Bear says her departure after four years at the post is bittersweet, as she will miss talking with the youth of the Nation, whom she says have become close friends during her time as Youth Grand Chief.

The CNYC consults with the Grand Council and the Cree Regional Authority on issues and policies affecting youth. According to their website, they also serve as a place where Cree youth can learn the ropes of governance. The CNYC calls itself a "training ground" where the next generation of Cree leaders learn skills to equip them to deal with the challenges of overseeing Eeyou Itschee.



Stacy Bear, the current Youth Grand Chief.

"WE WANT TO GET THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE COMMUNITY MORE INFORMED ABOUT WHO'S RUNNING SO THEY CAN MAKE A BETTER DECISION WHO TO VOTE FOR, RATHER THAN JUST VOTING FOR WHO THEY KNOW."

Elections are on May 31, with polling stations across the James Bay territory. Eligible voters who live outside of the territory will be allowed to cast their votes by fax on election day. Ballots can be obtained from Chief Electoral Officer Iris Voyageur in Mistissini or Assistant Electoral Officer Mary Jane Moar in Waskaganish.

*Happy Mother's Day to every one of our readers who is a mother or about to be from everyone here at the Nation.*





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Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay



## Mistissini youth bring anti-uranium message to Montreal

A handful of Crees from Mistissini joined in Earth Day celebrations in Montreal to raise awareness about an issue they feel has not been getting enough airtime – to end uranium mining in Eeyou Istchee and around the world.

Carrying a banner with this message on it were Mistissini Youth Chief Shawn Iserhoff, Justice Debassige, Kayleigh Spencer, Catherine Quinn, Desmond Michel and Amanda Katelyn Quinn.

"We as Crees did this because we want to send out a message. What is often the case now with Strateco is that they have misrepresented us through their press releases, saying that a lot of our community members support this project. But exactly how many are they implying actually do?" questioned Iserhoff.

"All of the surveys that have been conducted and all of the public meetings showed that just about everyone in the community was against it. And now there is a growing number of youth that are getting more vocal about it and we want to get that message out there that our youth don't want this project," said Iserhoff.

The Crees marched shoulder to shoulder with other First Nations groups and about 250,000 to 300,000 taking part in the massive event. They are hoping to get their message heard both in Montreal and at home.

## Federal Court ruling could see equal funding for Native kids

The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada's Cindy Blackstock managed to see a major victory against the federal government on April 18 as the courts ruled in her favour over whether Ottawa is discriminating against Aboriginal children on reserves by providing less funding in child welfare to them.

While a Human Rights Tribunal had been held over the same discrimination complaint in 2011 after it was originally filed by the Caring Society and the Assembly of First Nations in 2007, the issue was dismissed. However, the Federal Court ruled that a human-rights complaint alleging that Ottawa underfunds services for on-reserve children and is therefore discriminating against them cannot be dismissed.

A hearing will now be held before a new panel of adjudicators.

"I am so happy. But on days like today, I am reminded how sad it is that we even have to bring a case like this forward in the first place. All areas of inequality are now opened up under the Canadian Human Rights Act legally for discussion, because of this case," Blackstock told the Toronto Star.

If Blackstock actually succeeds with the Tribunal it could open the doors for on-par funding for child welfare services on reserves across Canada in a historic first.

## Dianne Ottereyes Reid receives prestigious medal

Dianne Ottereyes Reid, the President and CEO of the Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute (ACCI), has been awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal from the Governor General of Canada by the Canadian Museums Association in recognition of her exceptional contributions to Canadian culture and heritage.

Reid has spent many years committed to the preservation of Cree culture, language and heritage, and the fruits of her labour can now be seen throughout the brand new Cultural Institute in Oujé-Bougoumou.

Upon learning that Reid had received this honour, Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come sent his congratulations: "As Grand Chief, and one who has worked with you, I can say, there is no other Cree more deserving of this prestigious award. Indeed, your hard work, determination and willingness to work closely with our Elders and past Leaders have paid off."

Reid received her honours on April 25 at the Canadian Museums Association's Annual Conference Awards Banquet in Gatineau.

**Pssst...** Have any information you'd like to share with *the Nation*? Call us at 514-272-3077, and we'll look into your story. If you don't call us, your voice won't be heard!

Comic strip courtesy of Tundra Comics: [www.tundracomics.com](http://www.tundracomics.com)



# No access

**Trying to cover a Plan Nord event in Montreal turns into a face-off with the police**

Story and photos by Jesse Staniforth

My assignment was to cover the Salon Plan Nord, held April 20-21 at Montreal's Palais de Congrès. A publicity and business event with free entry for the public, the Salon was billed as an opportunity for the curious to "get all of the relevant information about this project that will span a generation". It boasted a job fair, cocktail party, sets of personalized meetings and a "Strategic Forum" on natural resources in Quebec with an address by Premier Jean Charest.

On the opening Friday, I set out for the Salon with a lot of questions in mind. The Plan Nord is relatively popular in the Eeyou Istchee. Leaders from Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come on down believe it will help secure prosperity for the Cree people by allowing the Crees to use nation-to-nation negotiation to get rightfully compensated for allowing mining to take place on their land. This compensation will include, among other things, many job opportunities for Cree people in, or close to, their home communities.

The mine operators, meanwhile, are adamant that they do business differently than the mines that devastated Cree communities for much of the 20th century. Modern mine operators claim their pollution management systems are technologically advanced, and, as Nation editor-in-chief Will Nicholls verified in his investigation of Goldcorp Inc. in Nicaragua, in many cases they are telling

the truth. While the interest of non-Aboriginal mining companies in Cree lands is still a cause for suspicion, it may not be the nightmare scenario some imagine it to be.

However, for other Aboriginal communities in Quebec, the prospects for the Plan Nord are not so rosy. While 26 of the 33 First Nations whose land would be affected by the Plan Nord have signed on to support it, some, like certain Innu communities, remain wholly opposed. Chief Raphael Picard of the Pessamit Innu Nation likened Quebec's handling of the Plan Nord to colonialism, complaining that his people were being offered \$350-million over 50 years for a project he felt should pay them \$5-billion. Last summer, members of the Pessamit Nation blocked Highway 138 in protest over failed talks with the Quebec government; on March 5, Innu protesters again blocked Highway 138 to protest the damming of the Romaine River.

It is not only First Nations who are concerned about the feasibility of the Plan Nord. The Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN) has a series of problems with the Plan, but Nation readers may be most troubled by the CSN's argument that the 50% of northern land guaranteed protected may not be safe from contamination by the activities taking place on the other 50%.

Meanwhile, in mid-March, le Devoir published an article reporting that two

studies had appeared that seemed to undermine the Charest government's numbers on the Plan Nord. One study, by "strategic management consulting group" SECOR, affiliated with the Liberal government, reported that the Plan Nord would create 37,000 permanent jobs per year for its entire run – a number that le Devoir pointed out would add up to an unbelievable 925,000 permanent jobs in total. SECOR's figures were hard to take seriously.

At the same time, a study by the Institut de recherche et d'information socio-économiques (IRIS), which le Devoir said was associated with "the young left", reported that the Liberal party's figures were faulty. Most surprising was IRIS's contention that in return for generating \$14-billion in tax revenues for the province, Quebec itself would have to spend between \$16-billion and \$24-billion. Among the strong questions raised by le Devoir was this: why should the province take in so little tax revenue from a project that will cost so much, even if it's less than IRIS imagines? Last year in Quebec, le Devoir reports, mining firms took \$8-billion in ore out of the earth, and paid the province less than 10% of the market price of that ore in taxes. It's a huge question: why should the people of Quebec pay more – through their taxes, but also through their ancestral lands – to help these



companies get richer, if the people footing the bill are seeing so little in return?

Most recently, the Radio-Canada television show *Enquête* secretly taped Liberal-affiliated organizer Pierre Coulombe (who previously worked for the Mulroney and Harper Conservatives) suggesting to an actor posing as an investor that he could provide insider information on the Plan Nord decision-making process in return for political and financial gifts to a friend who worked in the office of Mining Minister Serge Simard. This, too, has left a dark stain on the Plan Nord discussions.

All of these issues were firmly in my mind as I got on the métro for the Palais de Congrès, though also on my mind were the media reports that there had been battles earlier that morning between police and student protestors who wished to face Charest. Before the Salon had even opened, student strikers, along with environmental protestors, had arrived to picket the event, and at some point they became more aggressive, throwing rocks and paint-bombs at the Palais de Congrès' windows. According to most reports police responded in kind, clubbing, gassing and generally attacking anyone in the vicinity, regardless of whether or not they had been involved in vandalism. Charest, meanwhile, joked about the protestors from his podium, saying that "we should give them a job in the North, as far north as possible". It was the beginning of a weekend of protest and unrest, in which students were joined by environmentalists, union groups and Aboriginal opponents to the Plan Nord.

So as I stepped off the métro at Place d'Armes station, I was expecting the atmosphere to be tense. What I wasn't expecting was to be immediately ordered by a line of police to get back on the métro car. I showed them my press card and they weren't impressed; back on the train I went. At the next stop, I followed the sprinting young students with red felt squares attached to their lapels and was soon outside the Palais de Congrès.

There were a huge number of police: uniform cops from Montreal, riot cops



from Montreal and riot cops from the SQ who wearing gasmasks and holding tear-gas grenade guns. Overhead, two police helicopters were keeping track of the action. My press card got me through the line of police, but when I approached the door of the Palais de Congrès, showed them my identification and said I was there to cover the event, they sent me packing, claiming that although the event was free for the public, I needed to have secured special per-

card than their colleagues had been earlier. At the corner of Viger and St. Urbain, there was a large crowd, which I wandered around trying to find any sign of the 40 Innu representatives who had begun a 900-kilometre protest march to Montreal from their Nation a week earlier. They didn't seem to be there, and I wondered if they had even made it.

There wasn't much time to think that over, however, because though we were a crowd of a few hundred people stand-

**"THE RADIO-CANADA TELEVISION SHOW ENQUÊTE SECRETLY TAPED LIBERAL-AFFILIATED ORGANIZER PIERRE COULOMBE (WHO PREVIOUSLY WORKED FOR THE MULRONEY AND HARPER CONSERVATIVES) SUGGESTING TO AN ACTOR POSING AS AN INVESTOR THAT HE COULD PROVIDE INSIDER INFORMATION ON THE PLAN NORD DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN RETURN FOR POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL GIFTS TO A FRIEND WHO WORKED IN THE OFFICE OF MINING MINISTER SERGE SIMARD. THIS, TOO, HAS LEFT A DARK STAIN ON THE PLAN NORD DISCUSSIONS."**

mission for media before I could come in. No one else was being let in.

I walked around for a while checking doors, but those that weren't locked tight were guarded by lines of police who were less sympathetic to my press

ing around doing nothing in the chilly spring air, the police began to advance upon us and push us back. First they separated our crowd into two groups with a flying-wedge formation, and then they pushed us further and further up St.

Urban for no reason that anyone could see. Certainly nobody in the crowd had been doing anything wrong: a handful of people were shouting slogans, but from where I stood the bulk of people seemed to be bystanders, conference attendees who hadn't been allowed in, and lost reporters like myself. That didn't matter, however: they ordered us back 10 metres, stopped, then ordered us back again, holding the line with helmets and long batons at the ready. The crowd was pissed off – and why wouldn't they be? They were standing on the street doing nothing. Some, like me, had a reason to be inside that had nothing to do with the protests and were incredulous that they weren't allowed in. Others were trying to protest peacefully and didn't see why they should be forced up the street by people with sticks.

Again, they pressed us back up the street. Then there was a moment of confusion, and they announced that they were retreating. They retreated 10 metres back the way they came; the crowd followed them. Ten more metres, and along we went. Finally, we were back where we started, having been marched backward up the street for no reason at all. Over the shoulders of the line of cops blocking the intersection, we could see the full might of the Montreal riot squad marching toward us, though, and this didn't comfort anyone. Many of us turned and headed up the way we'd been forced, only to find two more squads of riot cops hemming us in.

I made it onto de la Gauchetière Street, which they seemed to be sealing off. It's a narrow pedestrian street and



even as I was hoping they wouldn't tear-gas us, causing a panic in such narrow confines, I was also wondering if there was any way I would be able to write my story now. After a minute or so of walking away from the lines of cops, I returned to try to figure out what my next move should be. To my surprise, they were gone: all of them, the SQ riot police and the Montreal riot police alike. Within minutes, the whole crowd was standing on the corner where it had been before they forced us up the street, and virtually all the police who had been there had disappeared like smoke.

I headed to the door of the Palais de Congrès, figuring now I might get to do my interviews, but there were still hel-

meted police blocking the door, and they weren't moved by my press credentials. In reverse order, I tried the various doors I'd checked on my arrival: still all blocked by police, none of them allowing me in.

At the end, two hours after my arrival, I was right where I had started, only that area was sealed off with police tape, so I couldn't even get near the door to ask. None of my questions had answers, and I hadn't even found the Innu representatives to hear them explain their positions in their own words. I walked back to the métro and wondered whether those who had gotten into the conference before the doors were sealed off were left with as many questions as I was.

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# Closer to home

## The second edition of the Amos Hunting and Fishing Show is a success

By Akiva Levitas

The Amos Hunting and Fishing Show returned this year for a successful second edition April 12-15. It was held at the Hotel des Eskers in Amos with 16 companies showcasing their hunting and fishing goods.

Launched last year, the event was organized by Gaétan Dupuis of B.C. Sports located in the area. With an estimated 1,300 attending the show, Dupuis said, "It was a successful show and we received many favourable comments."

The companies showcasing their goods at the event included big names such as Winchester, Browning, Ecotone, Remington and Savage Arms. With plenty of advertising in the local media leading up to the show, it was gearing up to be a great weekend for those getting supplies for Goose Break as well as hunting and fishing enthusiasts.

On display in the various booths was a wide range of hunting apparel, such as camouflage and boots, rifles and shotgun shells not to mention fishing rods. The hotel's large hall provided plenty of space for visitors and booths although Dupuis lamented that a local hockey tournament had taken some potential visitors away from the show.

Having been the largest booth in an annual Camping, Hunting and Fishing show in the south, Dupuis decided last year to launch the Amos event after realizing the need for a hunting and fishing show for northern communities that focused on their needs.

"The other large shows lacked focus on the main needs," Dupuis pointed out. "They usually have a few booths for each category, and don't give many options for hunting and fishing."

Distance is another factor why Dupuis decided to bring the show to Amos so that those around can get access to the best goods tailored to their needs.



Budding Cree hunters admiring Savage Arms



Gaétan Dupuis, show organizer & Réal Charlebois from Recall Designs

The main difference between Dupuis' brand of hunting and fishing show and other shows is that being from the area he asks what people would like to see and provides them with it. As for now the plans for next year's event haven't been made yet but discussions are in the works on

what is most in demand for locals in the surrounding region.

Many of the companies with booths were satisfied by the turnout and there were plenty of people leaving well supplied for the spring.

# Looming demise

## The story behind the possible closing of Montreal's Native Friendship Centre

By Amy German



It was scandalizing headline news across Canada that many Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians alike are still trying to wrap their minds around, that the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal (NFCM) had in fact lost its core funding and will most likely force its doors to close after 37 years.

According to Édith Cloutier, President of the Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ), cutting off the Centre's core funding was something that they had no choice but to do as the organization was refusing to follow the mandate necessary to receive that type of government funding.

Cloutier explains, the RCAAQ has terminated its relationship with the NFCM after trying to work it out with the Centre for years.

The RCAAQ's role is to support all of the province's Friendship Centres in their mandate which is to provide services to the Aboriginal communities as well as provide for youth programming through the Inter Tribal Youth Program (ITYP), both of which are funded through the national organization who get their funding from Heritage Canada.

The RCAAQ is responsible for the administration and follow-ups of programs under the mandates for the Friendship Centres and the ITYPs and making sure that the obligations, criteria

and guidelines are met for those two specific programs.

Any of the other programs like the ones that the NFCM was providing to the homeless had nothing to do with the mandate from the RCAAQ.

"Being part of the Friendship Centre movement, we all have to share that same mission. And a Friendship Centre is basically a community, a socio-cultural community centre. That's a challenge across the country, to develop a wide range of services through a Friendship Centre that can meet the needs of a community from prenatal to Elders, going with families with young children in terms of health, education, social services and culture. This is where we have been trying to work with the Friendship Centre for the past 10 years," said Cloutier.

It wasn't however that the NFCM was too vested in caring for Montreal's homeless Aboriginals but that they were caring for them at the cost of programming for every other member of the community. And, without a mandate to provide services for everyone in the Aboriginal community, the RCAAQ had no choice but to cut the core funding.

It is not as though the RCAAQ doesn't acknowledge the growing number of homeless Aboriginals in Montreal and there was hope that the NFCM would have been able to follow in Vancouver's

footsteps in pursuing a model that accommodates everyone.

Due to the extreme homelessness problem in Vancouver's Lower East Side and the large Aboriginal population out West, the Vancouver Native Friendship Centre Society provides social, cultural and community-oriented support to families at their main location and then has a satellite centre in the Lower East Side for frontline work.

This way the needs of families and the homeless could both be met as, according to Cloutier, the main goal of a Friendship Centre is to provide a gathering place in the city, where Aboriginals can express their identity through community services, through social services and cultural services.

Despite their best efforts, the RCAAQ wasn't able to get the NFCM back on track. According to Cloutier, the Regroupement actually started working with the NFCM in 2007 after creating a recovery plan involving a series of follow-ups through an interim management committee that incorporated the Friendship Centre's president and the RCAAQ.

This process failed as they were unable to get the NFCM back on its core mission while addressing the needs of the homeless.

After 23 years working at the Friendship Centre in Val-d'Or and 15 at the RCAAQ as President, Cloutier said





Édith Cloutier



she understood what the NFCM was going through.

"I'd call it organizational community crisis or maybe identity crisis. And, unfortunately, over the years, the shift slowly moved towards homelessness, most likely because there are very important needs. This is not what we're saying, we're not saying that we don't

"AND, UNFORTUNATELY, OVER THE YEARS, THE SHIFT SLOWLY MOVED TOWARDS HOMELESSNESS, MOST LIKELY BECAUSE THERE ARE VERY IMPORTANT NEEDS."

know about the needs. But I think that if you are a Friendship Centre, there has to also have the needs of other community members that should be met the way a Friendship Centre should be working on," said Cloutier.

Cloutier wanted to make it clear that while the funding for the NFCM has been stopped, this does not mean that funding to Aboriginal Montrealers has been cut off.

RCAAQ will get in touch with the stakeholders of the Montreal Aboriginal community to see how services can be offered to the entire Aboriginal community. Not just for the homeless but for students, professionals and families. This

may happen with a new Friendship Centre in Montreal at a different location..

Cutting the NFCM's core funding will however be far reaching.

For Montreal's Aboriginal homeless, news that the Centre might be closing could not have come at a worse time according to Adrienne Campbell at

meeting with the police was prevention of homelessness. With the NFCM closing, all those people are going to end up on the streets during the day. They are used to going to the Friendship Centre and not other organizations where they don't feel a sense of cultural security and cultural belonging," said Campbell.

Adding to an already dire situation, PAQ may also have to close its doors. The Centre de santé et service sociaux that owns the building that PAQ is currently using has decided to reclaim the space and so PAQ have been asked to move by June 30.

This would mean that PAQ, a non-profit group, would have to pay rent for a new location, something that is not within their current means. In the past, the city of Montreal has covered the shelter's rent but this agreement ends once PAQ moves from this location as it was unique to the building as it was under a specific program.

Finding a space to run an organization like a homeless shelter in Montreal is not easily done, downtown is under constant renovation and revitalization for tourism.

And so the situation for Montreal's Aboriginal homeless may just become more difficult come summer when organizations that have been supporting vulnerable individuals could just stop dead in their tracks.

Projets Autochtones du Québec (PAQ), Montreal's only Native-oriented homeless shelter.

PAQ provides beds for over 40 homeless Aboriginals in Chinatown, it is not within their budget to offer services during the day. Instead, Montreal's homeless Aboriginals have been spending their days at the NFCM. This will end if the NFCM has to close its doors.

"I have already met with the police who patrol in the area of both PAQ and the Friendship Centre and already there are huge concerns about what happens during the day, people getting arrested.

"People who need programs need prevention. What was highlighted at our



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## "HOW TO BREAK OUT OF COLONIALISM?"

# Issues of sovereignty and cultural identity

By Akiva Levitas

The Indigenous Peoples and Governance (IPG) working group organized a four-day conference titled "How to Break Out of Colonialism?" at the Grande Bibliothèque in Montreal April 17-20.

IPG is an academic research project that has gathered 40 Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers studying constitutional law, economy, anthropology, philosophy and political science. The goal is to provide insight into the many problems caused by colonization as well as presenting solutions.

On April 18, the "Sovereignty, Nationhood and The Canadian Constitution" workshop was chaired by Martin Papillon from the University of Ottawa.

Members of the panel included Kent McNeil from York University, Shalene Jobin from the University of Alberta, Avigail Eisenberg from the University of Victoria, Larry Chartrand from University of Ottawa, and Benjamin Authers from the Australian National University.

On the issue of sovereignty, McNeil's presentation, "The Meaning of Sovereignty", shone a light on the concept of what it means and how the differences between the Eurocentric view and the optimal Universal view shaped where we are today in Canada.

The main pitfall is that when discussing sovereignty using the lingo of the British imperial system it sidelines Indigenous laws and culture. The situation becomes clear why the British when signing Treaty 4 in 1874 establishing British sovereignty over the region of southern Saskatchewan was inherently biased because it didn't consider the First Nations system of laws and authority.

In his paper, McNeil emphasizes that Indigenous peoples in the area were sovereign prior to the signing of the Treaty 4 because what matters for sovereignty is the existence and not the

form of the legal system in place by the Indigenous people.

Part of the process in de-colonialization is to change the conception of sovereignty from its current ethnocentric model to one that is as universal and inclusive as humanly possible. With this concept change, the signing of Treaty 4 would be viewed as not an internal issue but as an international agreement between Nations.

McNeil goes on to say that even after signing the treaty, the British did not have complete sovereignty over the North until the early 20th century. Because of the main factor in deciding who has sovereignty over a region or population is by the ability to make and enforce laws which was impossible for the Crown over the massive north.

Another factor in sovereignty is being identified as a single entity with its own laws, language, culture, history and traditions. Eisenberg presented a paper, entitled "International and Domestic Norms for Assessing Indigenous Identity Claims", which focused on the problems that mar the Canadian system for protection of Aboriginal culture.

Eisenberg states that there are two issues when talking about cultural rights. The first being essentialism which only gives a backwards looking view on cultural identity and causes distortions. The Canadian cultural assessment test suffers from this problem because of the requirement that only proven practices from pre-contact times are given protective status.

The other problem that arises when talking about cultural rights is that the end goal is ultimately assimilationist swallowing up smaller satellite groups as it grows and preventing the development of local customs.

The criteria of the assessment tests in the end limit the breadth and scope of the culture it is intended to protect. In the end the results lead to elitism with



the voice of non-experts being quashed and the failure of public institutions from reaching out.

The differences between the Canadian and international cultural assessment tests are striking as experts agree that the international system reflects a norm of cultural integrity and promotes the self-determinism of Indigenous groups. The obvious solution would be for Canada to overhaul the current system to allow for a broader and forward-thinking assessment of cultural practices worth protecting.

Jobin's presentation, "The Plains Cree: Peoplehood, International Trade and Foreign Affairs", showed how through the study of the trading system of the First Nations on America establishes proof that they were trading on a nation-to-nation basis with a defined culture and laws over a vast area.

The merchandise being traded shows just how vast the system was with material coming from as far away as the Gulf coast and words such as jaguar and monkey in the northern communities showcasing the exchange of knowledge.

The conference laid out five well-detailed proposals on many of the issues facing the First Nations, Inuit and Métis in Canada.

For more info on the conference and the research being done:  
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## "HOW TO BREAK OUT OF COLONIALISM?"

# The future of Indigenous/non-Indigenous relations

Story and photo by Brandon Judd

Despite its name, the "General Principles of Indigenous/Non-Indigenous Interactions" workshop was anything but general: it was specific, complex, varied and it provided attendees a wealth of information to consider.

Academics who study Aboriginal affairs at some of Canada's most prestigious universities gathered at the Indigenous Peoples and Governance (IPG) conference to present and exchange ideas on the current state of affairs for Aboriginal communities in Canada.

"It's the culmination of an ongoing project that brings together 35 researchers, not to mention the countless grad students and informal members, in an effort to have non-Indigenous viewpoints come into interaction with traditional and Indigenous views," explained Jeremy Webber, who holds the Canadian Research Chair in Law and Society and is a professor at the University of Victoria.

Webber's presentation, entitled "Strategies of Justice", discussed the problems that arise in what he calls "tragic conflicts of justice" – where two sets of justified claims exist and one cannot address one without seriously infringing on the other. This conflict, common in situations where a society has been established on land another people were dispossessed of, is usually dealt with by officials in a purely forward-looking manner that ignores retrospective justice. Webber rejects this approach.

"Any good carpenter will tell you that, when making a crown moulding, following a drawn line and following the line of the ceiling are equally bad; you have to find a middle ground between the two approaches," he said. "That's exactly what we need to be searching for: a relationship of co-deliberation and co-decision."

Glenn Coulthard sat two seats away from Webber – fitting since he is a professor at the University of British Columbia, just a stone's throw from UVic. Coulthard, who comes from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, teaches in the Political Science department at UBC where he specializes in Indigenous political theory.

He argued that, in certain cases, "critically embracing our individual and collective resentment (as opposed to a... neo-colonial framework of 'forgiveness, recognition and reconciliation'...) can play a cathartic, critically transformative role in the rehabilitation of colonized subjects and in the radical reconstruction of decolonized Indigenous ways of life."

In addition to the opportunity to present his work and discuss issues of importance with his peers, the conference held particular significance for Coulthard.

"I've been with the conference since I first started as a grad student," he said, his tall frame and tanned vest standing out as he slowly made his way through the crowded, post-workshop hallway. "The conference was really supportive of me then, so I'm honoured to be invited back as a professor."

He, too, stressed the optimism such a large conference with varied perspectives brings out in its attendees.

"I'm hoping for a lot of constructive dialogue, and honest dialogue, too: for questions to be addressed as they deserve to be addressed."

Honesty was in full effect during this particular workshop, as the quote that garnered the biggest reaction from the audience came just before Coulthard's speech. Victoria Freeman, who teaches at the University of Toronto, cited Thomas Jefferson in her presentation defending reconciliation: "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just."



Glenn Coulthard listens to questions

For attendee Larry George, who came from Duncan, BC, the conference was an adjunct to one he helped organized with the Cowichan Tribes of Duncan, of which he is a member. He believes polyvalent conferences like the Indigenous Peoples and Governance conference are integral to pushing towards proper self-determination, because they give thinkers chance to show how things could be different.

"Our law and our systems need to be recognized," he said, his soft voice contrasting with the strength of his eyes, and his words. "We need to make sure it's clear that our current situation doesn't have to be what it is. There are other ways. There are other ways that work."



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## "HOW TO BREAK OUT OF COLONIALISM?"

# Resources and economic autonomy

By Jesse Staniforth

At the How to Get Out of Colonialism conference, held in Montreal on April 19, McGill Professor Roderick MacDonald opened his presentation with a troubling anecdote.

The conference was organized by the Indigenous People and Governance (IPG) working group, an academic group that has worked on numerous different projects and conferences in the past. Speaking on a panel workshop on Resources and Economic Autonomy, MacDonald began his talk with a story about a previous conference that IPG had organized in the Chippewas of Rama Mnjikaning First Nation in Ontario.

MacDonald recalled that they asked the band office if there was an Elder who would be willing to open the conference with a blessing. A band office administrator replied, "We don't do that anymore."

Puzzled, MacDonald and his colleagues asked who they should talk to find someone to open the conference.

"You should get the director of the casino," MacDonald recalled the administrator saying, "The only thing that really matters in this First Nation anymore is the casino. Everything is driven by it."

MacDonald said he was stunned to hear this.

"Here's something that purports to be an exercise in economic self-determination," he says, "in this case a casino that's brought in for the First Nation to manage and generate revenue for the good of the whole Nation, and to produce other economic development and support infrastructure—that had radically changed the structures of governance in the Nation. The effects of a huge economic engine were not predictable, and now political decision-making was driven by this economic development, and not by traditional patterns of authority."

Throughout his talk, entitled "Rethinking Property as Sovereignty,"



MacDonald cautioned that First Nations might see their traditional customs and values eroded in unexpected ways as a result of projects that at first seem to be in the economic best interests of the Nation and people. He broke down the four models of economic relationship between Aboriginal groups and the federal government by using terms familiar from Quebec's constitutional debates.

The Indian Act, he said, was "separatist but paternalist." It made First Nations separate from Canada and was imposed by the Indian Affairs branch without any interest in the specific concerns of individual First Nations. The First Nations Land Management Act was "co-optational," meaning that while it was an idea that First Nations could opt into, "the assumption behind the act is to create the possibility of First Nations using reserve land as capital assets." The model undertaken by the Gitksan First Nation is "assimilationist," meaning that it moves toward no residual crown title or controls and leaves the First Nation with no power to exercise sovereignty other than bylaws. Finally, there is the model of the agreements reached by both the Nisga'a and Comox First Nations, which MacDonald terms "sovereignty-association." This type of agreement, he stressed, is the only one that does not involve top-down or outside-in imposition of changes to a First Nation's property.

"The Nisga'a and Comox model of agreement is different in two dimensions," said MacDonald. "It approxi-

mates the possibility of nation-to-nation negotiation, building a regime of property entitlement, recognizing that the business of treaty-making around traditional land claims must be worked out on a nation-to-nation basis. None of the other three do this."

Secondly, MacDonald continued, the Nisga'a and Comox agreement model understands that property (not just land, but also vehicles and other moveable assets) is only part of a broad range of issues related to territorial governance.

"Configuring property rights is an exercise of sovereignty for First Nations," MacDonald said. "We can't just deal with property rights, assuming they can be reconfigured, without considering the impact they will have on the way the community is managed."

Speaking afterward, MacDonald elaborated on the importance of nation-to-nation negotiation for all First Nations, but especially in the context of the James Bay Crees at a time when the Plan Nord will be in effect among their territories.

"Having a framework agreement allows First Nations to have better monitoring and follow-up," he said "and it also allows them, because they're working in a group, to acquire expertise in environmental protection or economic development, to make sure that what was promised is actually delivered."

The only caution that Professor MacDonald had for the Crees engaged in negotiating with the Quebec government over the Plan Nord was over mon-



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La Caisse du lac Mistassini, située à 543 km de la ville d'Amos dans la belle région du Nord du Québec, dessert 3 440 membres. Son actif est de 61 millions de dollars, dont 24 millions en prêts aux particuliers et 30 millions en prêts aux entreprises. L'épargne totalise 47 millions de dollars (bilan, hors bilan). Son marché est composé en majorité de personne appartenant à la communauté Crie. La Caisse compte 18 employés non syndiqués répartis entre deux centres de services. La Caisse est associée au centre administratif de l'Ouest-du-Québec et au Centre financier aux entreprises de L'Abitibi et du Nord du Québec.

#### LE DÉFI

Dans ce poste clé de direction, vous assurerez la gestion globale, stratégique et opérationnelle de la Caisse et influencerez l'évolution des grands dossiers de la Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec et de ses filiales dont vous portez, dans l'action, les grandes orientations. Informer, influencer et soutenir les dirigeants dans la définition des orientations et dans les décisions à prendre, de même qu'orienter, diriger, mobiliser les employés de la Caisse et favoriser leur développement figurent également au nombre de vos responsabilités. Par ailleurs, vous veillerez à l'animation et à la gestion des équipes de vente qui relèvent directement de vous ou par l'intermédiaire de vos directeurs. Au chapitre de la rentabilité, vous suivrez les indicateurs de performance et mettrez en place les correctifs nécessaires. Vous serez un acteur de premier plan dans le développement des affaires pour les marchés des particuliers et des entreprises, dans la création et la gestion de partenariats d'affaires et dans l'évolution et la gestion des réseaux de distribution de la Caisse. En votre qualité de membre de la direction, il vous reviendra d'assurer une présence prépondérante de la Caisse dans son milieu, favorisant ainsi son rayonnement. Enfin, vous nouerez des partenariats avec les organismes voués à l'économie sociale et au développement économique et communautaire.

#### LE PROFIL

Titulaire d'un baccalauréat en administration des affaires ou dans une discipline connexe, vous avez à votre actif quatre années d'expérience en conseils financiers, dont deux années en gestion ou en coordination d'activités de vente de produits et de services financiers. D'autres combinaisons de formation et d'expérience pertinentes pourraient être considérées.

Postulez en ligne au  
[desjardins.com/carriere](http://desjardins.com/carriere)

Concours : 1202636  
Date limite : 10 mai 2012



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Nous souscrivons au principe de l'équité en matière d'emploi. Seules les personnes sélectionnées seront contactées.

itoring and enforcement. He hoped that Chiefs will hold out for the Quebec government to commit to making a significant contribution toward providing monitoring and enforcement expertise.

"We can't assume that because it's written in the law, that the projects will monitor and enforce themselves," he warned. "Monitoring and enforcement costs a lot of money and requires a lot of expertise. Some of that expertise is present, but maybe not all that you need. So part of the deal discussion, as the Plan Nord moves forward on a nation-to-nation basis, is that the Quebec government has to help on monitoring, and it has to help on enforcement."

MacDonald, however, was optimistic that the Crees are in a strong position to get what they need out of Plan Nord negotiations.

"The leadership knowledge and capacity in Northern Quebec today," he said, "is much more widespread [than in the mid-20th century, when earlier mines were being dug]. There are many, many more people at the same level of sophistication, and many better processes of dealing with outsiders coming in. They have a better sense of how to control these things. In the past, people were often at the service of the almighty buck. When you need investment, you're not in the same position of being able to negotiate on even-stein terms. But by good leadership and good management, First Nations in Northern Quebec have much better leverage in negotiating."



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# Old-style justice

## Reaching wrong-doers the way generations of the past were able to do

Story and photo by Jesse Staniforth

Justice used to be done very differently in the Cree Nation.

As Public Health Officer Charles Esau explained over the traditional lunch honouring the opening of the Waskaganish Justice Centre, the sixth such facility to open in a Cree Nation community, "The way they used to do things was when somebody did wrong, there was a council of older people that discussed with him what he did. When he admitted it, he came up with a solution of how he was going to pay for the wrongdoing. At that time, there were no cars, no trucks, nothing. What he did was burn grass. When they burned the grass around the small village, it would kill the mosquitoes. That was a job that somebody had to do, and he did it voluntarily. That's an example of how someone can pay back the community."

This recollection of the traditional forms of Cree justice was reflected in the speeches of all the dignitaries gathered for the occasion, which included Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come, Quebec Justice Minister Jean-Marc Fournier, Waskaganish Chief Gordon Blackned, and Judges Jocelyn Geoffroy, Robert Mainville and André Perreault. Each spoke about the importance of making Cree traditions, values and customs central to the pursuit of justice in the Cree Nation.

Also present was Gertie Murdoch, who will assume the role of chairperson of the Regional Justice Committee in June. In 1980, Murdoch became the first Cree Justice of the Peace, a position she held until a 2004 Supreme Court ruling decided that Justices of the Peace must be lawyers with 10 years of experience – a requirement she and the Justice Committee are appealing to the minister to change.

"I think all the Native people were wiped out then," said Murdoch of the 2004 ruling. "Apparently there were only two Justices of the Peace in Kahnawake left. Because of their dual citizenship,

they couldn't dismiss them. If they die, that's it."

The desire to see more and more Crees involved in the administration of justice was on everyone's minds. Along with the opening of the new building comes the demand for the facility to be filled with members of the community it serves.

Blackned said, "I see it as an opportunity for younger people to look at careers within it – the clerks, corrections officers, maybe even lawyers, and one day the judges. We've got to look to the future and start encouraging the youth to make use of that building for our benefit, and for the benefit of the members of the community. It's not just for court cases related to infractions: it's for people to go to, to seek information about a certain law, their rights, how they can seek assistance from people within that building, and for seeking justice when they feel that their rights have been infringed upon."

When it comes to making Cree values and tradition central to justice, said Murdoch, "The Regional Justice Committee pushes hard. We have to have culture included. I think we're strong in saying programs have to be related to language and culture. I think it will happen, I really do. If they reinstate the justices of the peace, I see it rooting from there. Eventually, our goal is to see Cree judges and Cree lawyers and everybody Cree in the courtroom. That's a long-term goal, and I think we'll build as we go along."

Murdoch added that the committee has already been looking at Circle Sentencing, the restorative justice process of allowing an admitted wrongdoer to face and be judged by the person he or she harmed.



Coon Come cutting ribbon made by Gertie Murdoch

Blackned looks forward to the Justice Centre stepping up the activity of the Restorative Justice Committee, which is tasked with developing traditional justice approaches drawn from Cree tradition.

"There hasn't been much activity on the part of that committee to deter people from getting involved in incidents that are normally tried in the itinerant court," Blackned said. "We've got to get moving on that. Now that we've got a building there, that would be home to this committee, and sitting there, in that facility, hopefully it'll give them some ideas about how to mediate some of the problems people encounter."

After the day's ceremonies, as guests and dignitaries gathered at the Kanio Kashee Lodge to eat moose, beaver and goose with members of the community, Esau reflected that the most important element of a strong system of Cree justice was reaching those who have done wrong in the way that generations of the past were able to do.

"I think when people start to realize and admit that what they did was wrong," he said, "then that's beneficial to their own healing and their reconciliation with the family, the individual or the community."



April 11, 2012

To our friends and valued customers in Wemindji,

Thank you to all our friends and customers for the many years you allowed us to be part of life in Wemindji. We've been happy to serve and, although we don't want to leave, we respect your decision to try a new approach to community shopping.

When we look back on our time in Wemindji, our best memories are those ordinary, day-to-day moments spent getting to know generations of families through our grocery, retail and financial business. We think, too, of special occasions, big and small. We were especially proud to be a major sponsor of Wemindji's 50th anniversary celebration, and treasure happy memories of events at the store, like Christmas Ladies' Night and Goose Break specials.

In parting, we want you to know that even though we're closing our stores, The North West Company's door is never really closed to you. If, in the future, you decide that the community might benefit from the choices a second store could offer, we'd be happy to return and start another phase in the long relationship that Northern and Wemindji share.

We leave you with warm memories, our thanks and best wishes for the future.

Yours truly,

Michael McMullen  
Executive Vice-President, Northern Canada Retail

**Northern**

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# Left out of the loop

## Métis tribe plans to take Ontario to court over Duty to Consult exclusion

Brandon Judd

An Ontario Métis tribe prepares to take the Government of Ontario to trial in the coming months, accusing it of excluding them from negotiations for mining grants within their claimed territory.

The Algonquin Woodland Métis Anishinabek Tribe (AWMAT) submitted a comprehensive claim to the Government of Ontario in 2009, arguing the government had failed to fulfill its legal obligations: Fiduciary Responsibility, Duty to Consult, and Duty to Accommodate. Under these mandates, the government is required to consult and negotiate with Aboriginal tribes in whose claimed traditional lands it plans to lease or sell land for the purpose of, for example, mining.

"We were told we won't be recognized as a nation," said Zane Bell, Grand Chief of the AWMAT. "They won't recognize our community with the same rights of service as the Métis Nation of Ontario."

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, the governmental body responsible for dealing with land claims, says they never received a land claim from Bell or his tribe.

"We have no record of a land claim being filed by Chief Bell of the AWMAT," said Phyllis Bennett, a communications officer with the ministry. "Chief Bell was pointed towards the website in our response to his letter in 2009."

Bell provided *the Nation* with scanned images of letters he sent to the ministry, which constitutes the initial and supporting documentation for the claim and the necessary information to open up comprehensive negotiations with the province. The ministry's response left Bell incensed.

"We only got letters saying 'thank you for your letter, we passed it on to the Minister; have a good day'," he said, his voice quickly rising as he spoke. "That's not responding. Passing us on to

their website is not consultation; that's not an appropriate response."

Bell says the ministry told him they deal with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) for mining claims where the Anishinabek Tribe is a stakeholder. Bell argues that by receiving funding from the federal government – including \$30 million from the federal Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy in 2010 – it is a political lobbyist group, not a community and therefore should not be the point consultation for Métis claims. The MNO refused to comment on the issue.

The Powley Test, developed from the Supreme Court Decision *R. v. Powley*, states a Métis community can claim Aboriginal rights under section 35 of the Charter if, among other criteria, it can demonstrate its practices existed after contact with Europeans occurred, but before Europeans consolidated control. The Anishinabek Tribe claims to have records of their existence and traditions that date to early French colonialism, long before subjugation. This, Bell argues, gives the Canadian government a legal responsibility to consult them when they are a stakeholder in claims.

"The provincial government is in failure of their fiduciary responsibility; they are giving lip service and falsehoods that they are negotiating with Aboriginal people and they exclude tribes they haven't signed treaty with," said Bell. "They are in adversarial positioning by not consulting with and accommodating Aboriginal people in connection with the 2009 comprehensive claim."

The Anishinabek Tribe has also been referred to other Aboriginal groups – the Wahta Mohawks, for example – when community members have filed claims under the Mining Act. Bell stressed they have no qualm with other Aboriginal tribes, calling them brothers and sisters, but that his tribe should be included in any discussions regarding his



Zane Bell, Grand Chief of the AWMAT

"WE WERE TOLD WE  
WON'T BE RECOGNIZED  
AS A NATION"

claim – which, he says, runs from Nova Scotia to the northeast corner of Alberta.

"For the Northern Ontario Act, they consulted with the MNO but refused to meet with our community," Bell said. "And now, with the [Proposed Exploration Plans and Permits Regulation in the Mining Act], they say they are adhering to Aboriginal consultation requirements, but they haven't ever spoken with us and we're stakeholders here. A current objection is being filed with the Environmental Bill of Rights registry."

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs maintains that they have not received a land claim from the Anishinabek Tribe.

# Hidden calorie bombs

## "Health foods" that could be sabotaging your diet

Story and photos by Amy German

Would you feed your child a chocolate bar for breakfast or eat a bag of candy as a mid-morning snack?

If the thought of this sound appalling to you then you are in the vast majority of folks who would like to eat healthy and feed their families nourishing foods. However, the problem is some commercial foods that seem healthy actually contain just as much if not more sugar than the kind of desserts that only are meant to be eaten occasionally.

According to Dr. Stanley Vollant, an Innu medical doctor and activist who was Quebec's first Aboriginal surgeon and first Aboriginal to be head of the Quebec Medical Association, a lot of Natives eat too much sugar for their own good.

"Four decades ago our people got 80% of their calories from proteins and lipids with only 20% coming from sugars and at that it was natural sugar from berries. Now, on the North American diet, 70-75% of our calories are coming from sugar. Processed foods are comprised of 75% sugars and our bodies are not capable of dealing with this," said Vollant to the Nation back in 2010.

Considering the fact that consuming too much sugar can lead to obesity which can in turn cause Type 2 diabetes among other health conditions, it is best to be avoided.

But, this is easier said than done when you consider how many so-called "health foods" actually contain just as much if not more sugar than junk food.

Take for example the smoothie, a blended drink that is usually a combination of fruit and often yoghurt or fruit juice and ice. It sounds like a healthy treat and these beverages are often marketed as being "low in fat". So the diet conscious will opt for this frosty delight thinking that they aren't doing any damage, but these drinks are often laden with sugars.

McDonald's new McCafe Smoothies are a prime example of this. While a medium mango-pineapple may be touted as a healthy treat because it only contains five grams of fat, it also has 60 grams of sugar. That is more than twice the amount of sugar as a Snickers bar.

To put it into perspective, the McDonald's hot-fudge sundae actually contains less sugar at 48 grams per serving.

Over at Tim Horton's the seemingly innocuous Low Fat Double Berry muffin seems like the ideal choice for the health-conscious individual on the go, right? However, this product has a whopping 30 grams of sugar.

The danger here is that these high-sugar snacks and treats are often add-ons to already super-sized meals or

### The body treats sugars all the same, whether it is fruit sugar or granular.

These foods have all been placed beside their actual per serving sugar content



While nobody believes Coca Cola is a health drink, many people will opt for iced tea or juice instead. Coke at 42 grams of sugar is only 13 grams ahead of Nestea Iced Tea and V8 Splash Tropical Blend per serving which equally have 29 grams per serving.



considered as ideal gap fillers between meals. In the long term, they can add on a great deal of extra weight if not consumed in moderation.

How much sugar an individual should have varies per institution. The Institute of Medicine recommends that no more than 25% of a total caloric intake come from added sugars whereas the World Health Organization recommends a daily maximum of 10% of calories from simple sugars (table sugar).

Looking at that calorically, according to Canada's Food Guide, a sedentary adult male aged 31-50 is supposed to consume 2350 calories per day. Taking into account that sugar is

approximately four calories per gram, if you consume 60 grams of sugar in one smoothie, that is 240 calories, approximately the total allowance of sugar for the entire day in just one beverage.

But, considering the fact that this individual will already be getting sugars that day in anything from the majority of processed foods to basic items, such as breads, yogurt, juices and sauces, they will have consumed too much sugar for that day.

So when it comes to eating right, checking the labels and product websites for how much sugar each "health food" product contains has become a necessity instead of a curiosity.



Between the naturally occurring sugar in the fruit and the added sugar for the syrup that they are served with, this product has 20 grams of sugar per half-cup serving. The Fat Free Frozen Yoghurt has 15 grams per serving. While both of these snacks have less sugar than a chocolate bar per serving, the serving sizes are only a half cup each, portion sizes that most people ignore. If you double each of these portions to the full cup that most people will serve themselves and you have some very sugary desserts that should not be treated as "health foods."



These fruity Tim Horton's muffins can have anywhere from 25-35 grams of sugar per serving while this itty-bitty fruity multi-grain cereal bar has 15 grams of sugar per serving, a fair amount when you consider that people will eat these as meals. When going for something fruity, sometimes it's just better to grab an actual piece of fruit.



## Director of Finance

Location: Wemindji, Quebec

### Job Summary:

Responsible for the planning, forecasting, coordinating and controlling of the financial Affairs of the Corporation and its subsidiaries, also Tawich Construction.

### Duties and Responsibilities:

- Provide accurate and complete monthly financial reports to Senior Management and the Board of Directors;
- Prepare annual budgets for the Corporation and its subsidiaries;
- Ensure the Corporation uses effective, profitable and accountable financial processes to achieve optimal performance and profitability;
- Oversee, implement and maintain operational accounting system;
- Direct and implement policies, financial systems and procedures regarding financial matters;
- Perform financial analysis of proposed actions, estimate risks, cash flow requirements, availability of funds, and loans if required and make recommendations on terms and conditions;
- Direct the daily administration of cash balance, cash flow and financing of working capital and provide records for general audit;
- Participate in the management of the Corporation's financial transactions and businesses;
- A respected, commendable and healthy Corporation image, internally and externally.

### Qualifications Required:

- Post-Secondary degree in Accounting, Business Administration or Management and/or equivalence to secondary education

with minimum formal training (diploma or certificate) in a related field or demonstrated academic, technical and professional competence in a related work situation;

- Minimum three (3) years' experience in a senior management position;
- Knowledge of Cree and English languages. French would be an asset;
- Knowledgeable in principles of financial and human resource management;
- Strong organizational, problem-solving skills, communication skills and interpersonal skills.

Lodging will be provided by the development company, also travel expenses.

### Salary:

Negotiable

### Deadline for Applications: May 18th , 2012

Please address applications to:  
HR Committee  
Tawich Development Corporation  
21 Hilltop Drive, P.O. Box 209  
Wemindji, QC, J0M 1L0  
tel: 1-819-978-0264  
fax: 1-819-978-3253

For more information contact:

David Bull  
Chief operating officer  
Tawich Development Corporation  
Coo@creenet.com

Mark Wadden  
President  
Tawich Development Corporation  
mwadden@creenet.com



# Goose hunt update

By Akiva Levitas

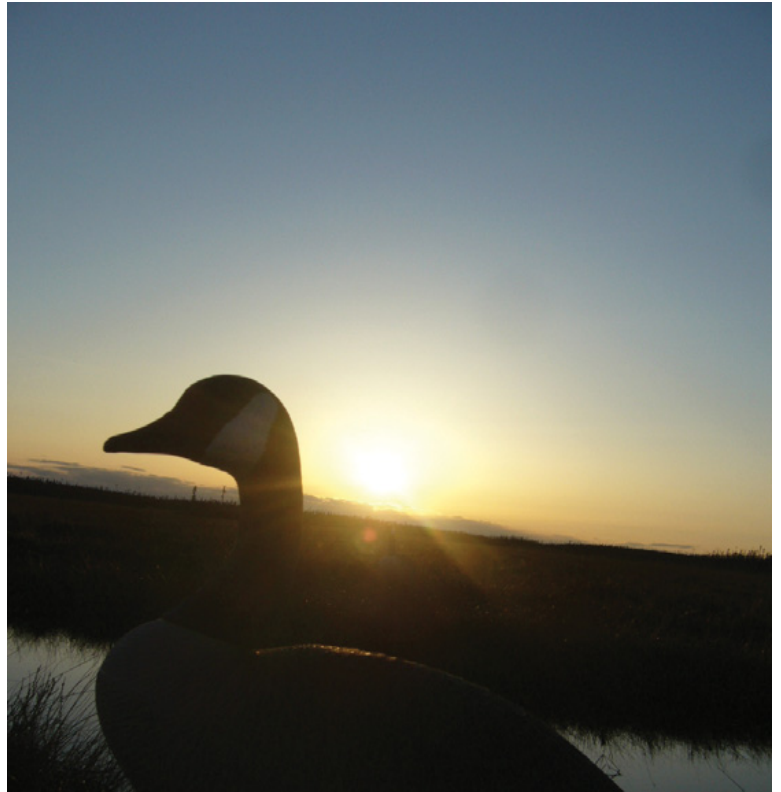
The goose hunt has picked up since the last update with many if not all nine Cree communities getting their first goose. Marcel Blacksmith from Mistissini and Simian Mianscum from Waswanipi were the first to shoot some geese.

Over in Waskaganish, Wendel Whiskeychann bagged the first goose over by Kilometre 10 access road near the community. Morris Tomatuk got the first goose along with a few others for Wemindji on April 5 by Moar Bay.

Johnny Kawapit of Whapmaghoostui got two geese in the area around his town. From Nemaska, Jimmy Blackned got his kill near the route to the North highway. Chisasibi also has a few kills confirmed in late March with plenty more following the initial icebreaker.

No word from Eastmain yet seeing as the local trappers association has not received any news if anyone has gotten the first goose. In Oujé-Bougoumou, Bobby Capaissit landed the first goose at his hunting grounds by Opemisca Lake.

The spring weather is kicking into high gear now with all the showers forecast for the region. Hopefully that won't get in the way of a successful goose hunt.



## letters

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I have forwarded letters to be printed in *the Nation* on a couple of occasions. Consistently, my letters have been printed with grammatical errors even though I ensure that they are correctly written prior to sending them out. The letter I sent in response to Daniel David's editorial was no exception. I was disappointed to see my letter once again containing an error which was not in the original I sent to you as the Editor.

Before I send out letters, I always ensure that they are written correctly with the proper grammar and punctuation. In the March 23rd issue of *the Nation*, I was disappointed to see that my letter contained an error whereby it appears I am calling the "50-50 Language Model" as "SO-SO Language Model". By printing "SO-SO Language Model", it indicates to the readership that the Cree School Board does not consider this issue as serious. More importantly, this error undermines the attempt of the Cree School Board to clarify the confusion of the Language issue and its efforts to ensure that the Cree language retains a predominant role in all Cree community school.

I am left to question as to what possible reasons there could be for consistently making these errors to my letters. As

Chief Editor, do you not proof-read the articles, letters and other material you print in *the Nation* before they go to the publisher to ensure there are no errors in them?

I would like to request that you reprint my letter, but this time, please ensure that you make the correction so that the letter will read "50-50" language model rather than "SO-SO" language model. I believe that you owe me a public apology for this error to my letter.

Note: *The Nation* takes the responsibility of letting our readers and community stakeholders express their views and/or concerns in our news magazine very seriously. So much so, that publishing two-page letters costs us thousands of dollars, so it is never our intention to misrepresent or modify documents, letters, etc... A simple conversion from PDF to Word (the format required to publish) caused the said 'typo'. It was an honest error and while we proof read and check material that goes into the *Nation*, letters do not undergo the same stringent criteria our journalists are subject to. We will be informing Word and Acrobat Reader of the problems associated with converting from a PDF to a Word format.

## AVIS PUBLIC

Le 24 novembre 2006, le ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de Parcs a autorisé Hydro-Québec à réaliser le projet de centrale de l'Eastmain-1-A et dérivation de la rivière Rupert. La condition 9.2 associée à cette autorisation stipule que Hydro-Québec doit collaborer avec le Comité d'examen (COMEX) pour mettre en place un processus de consultation de la population crie. Cette consultation a pour objectif, entre autres, de connaître le point de vue des Cries sur l'efficacité des mesures d'atténuation qui ont été mises en place afin de réduire les impacts sur l'environnement et le milieu social, ainsi que des moyens qui pourraient être envisagés pour remédier aux impacts résiduels. Ainsi, le COMEX tiendra des consultations publiques dans les communautés qui ont été touchées par le projet de Centrale de l'Eastmain-1-A et dérivation de la rivière Rupert et désire entendre les commentaires de la population à ce propos. Des représentants d'Hydro-Québec et de la Société d'énergie de la Baie-James seront aussi sur place pour répondre aux questions.

Les rencontres se tiendront les :

**28 mai 2012** : au du complexe sportif de **Mistissini** de 19h à 22h. Si nécessaire, une séance supplémentaire aura lieu au même endroit le 29 mai de 19h à 22h.

**30 mai 2012** : au complexe sportif de **Nemaska** de 19h à 22h. Si nécessaire, une séance supplémentaire aura lieu au même endroit le 31 mai de 19h à 22h.

**4 juin 2012** : à la salle de réception de l'édifice Mitchuap de **Chisasibi** de 19h à 22h. Si nécessaire, une séance supplémentaire aura lieu au même endroit le 5 juin de 19h à 22h.

**6 juin 2012** : aux bureaux du Conseil de Bande d'**Eastmain** de 19h à 22h. Si nécessaire, une séance supplémentaire aura lieu au même endroit le 7 juin de 19h à 22h.

**11-12 juin 2012** : à l'édifice communautaire de **Wemindji** de 19h à 22h le 11 juin et au même de 13h30 à 17h le 12 juin.

**18 juin 2012** : à la place de rassemblement de **Waskaganish** de 19h à 22h. Si nécessaire, une séance supplémentaire aura lieu au même endroit le 19 juin de 19h à 22h.

Afin de mieux planifier le déroulement des séances, nous apprécierions être avisés à l'avance de votre intention de présenter oralement vos commentaires sur le projet, au 418-521-3933, poste 4864 ou par courrier électronique à [secretariat.comex@mddepgouv.qc.ca](mailto:secretariat.comex@mddepgouv.qc.ca).



Convention de la Baie-James et du Nord québécois  
James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement  
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## PUBLIC NOTICE

On November 24, 2006, the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de Parcs authorized Hydro-Québec to carry out the Eastmain-1-A Powerhouse and Rupert Diversion Project. Condition 9.2 of the certificate of authorization stipulates that Hydro-Québec must collaborate with the Review Committee (COMEX) to set up a process for consulting the Cree population. The objective of this process is, among other things, to make known the point of view of the Crees on the effectiveness of the mitigation measures put in place to reduce the project's environmental and social impacts, and the means that could be envisaged to deal with residual impacts. Accordingly, COMEX will be holding public consultations in the communities affected by the Eastmain-1-A Powerhouse and Rupert Diversion Project and would like to get the population's views on the matter. Representatives from Hydro-Québec and the Société d'énergie de la Baie-James will be present to answer any questions.

Sessions will be held on the following dates:

**May 28, 2012:** from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m., at the **Mistissini Sports Complex**. If needed, a second session will be held at the same place on May 29, from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

**May 30, 2012:** from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m., at the **Nemaska Sports Complex**. If needed, a second session will be held at the same place on May 31, from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

**June 4, 2012:** from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m., in the Banquet Hall of the Mitchuap Building in **Chisasibi**. If needed, a second session will be held at the same place on June 5, from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

**June 6, 2012:** from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m., at the **Eastmain Band Council office**. If needed, a second session will be held at the same place on June 7, from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

**June 11-12, 2012:** from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. on June 11 and from 1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. on June 12, at the **Wemindji Community Hall**.

**June 18, 2012:** from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m., at the Gathering Place in **Waskaganish**. If needed, a second session will be held at the same place on June 19, from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

To help us plan the sessions, please let us know beforehand if you would like to make an oral submission on the project by calling 418-521-3933, ext. 4864, or by sending an email to [secretariat.comex@mddepgouv.qc.ca](mailto:secretariat.comex@mddepgouv.qc.ca).



Convention de la Baie-James et du Nord québécois  
James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement  
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# Going places

## Wemindji's Dana Morrison hand-picked for European hockey tour

Story and photos by Daniel Coyle

A group of U19 'A' and 'AA' female hockey players from the Ontario Women's Hockey Association travelled to Europe in March, representing Canada in games against three European national U18 squads. Among the hand-picked players on the North American Stars team was Wemindji's Dana Morrison. A first year Aboriginal Studies student at Algonquin College, Morrison spent this past season playing as a defenseman for the Midget AA Kanata Rangers, prior to her selection by the North American Stars.

As part of the European tour, the Stars flew into Frankfurt, Germany and visited Nuremberg and Munich en route to the Walt Disney castle in Füssen. The team then travelled to the Olympic city of Innsbruck, Austria where they faced the Austrian U18 national team before moving on to Italy for a game versus the Italian U18 team, and then returning to Germany

Eastern Door & North (ED&N) jersey at the upcoming 2012 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC) taking place in Saskatoon in early May. This will be the fourth year that Morrison has played for ED&N and although she wishes that the tournament would permit players from CIS and international teams to participate, she still believes the NAHC is important for developing skills of players from all parts of Canada.

"The NAHC is a very important tournament," says Morrison. "We are playing teams from different regions of Canada, and see different players with skills that we need to learn to play more competitive hockey."

It is important to note that this year Dana will not be the only Morrison on the ED&N squad heading to Saskatoon; Dana's older sister, Sara Morrison, who plays defence for the University of Ottawa Gee Gees, will



coaching, a job that is still often handled by a man.

"I think (having more women coaches) is important because girls need a role model to look up to; a woman whose steps we can follow in," explains Dana.

While Algonquin College does not have a hockey program, it has not lessened Dana's ambition to play hockey at a higher level. Next year, Morrison plans on switching to a two-year Sciences program at Algonquin in preparation for attending university, and hopes to follow in her sister Sara's footsteps and obtain a degree in Kinesiology. Is it possible that in a couple years we may see the Morrison sisters patrolling the Gee Gees blue line as a top defensive tandem?

"My preferences would be to attend McGill, Ottawa or Carleton. I want to stay in Canada, whatever the case," says Dana. "I am not too sure yet. We'll see where it takes me."

Chances are her hard work and hockey talent will take her far.

"I THINK (HAVING MORE WOMEN COACHES) IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE GIRLS NEED A ROLE MODEL TO LOOK UP TO; A WOMAN WHOSE STEPS WE CAN FOLLOW IN."

for a final game against a tough German squad.

The tour represented the first time many of the players, including Morrison, had faced tough international competition on the ice.

"Playing against the girls overseas was a great experience," said Morrison. "I was very curious what level their hockey skills were at. I definitely want to play against them again."

Although the European tour is over, the hockey season is not yet done for Morrison, who will be donning the

be behind the bench as an assistant coach for ED&N. Although both Morrison girls are highly skilled players, this will be the first time they have been on the same team.

"It feels a little weird," says Dana about having her sister, Sara, coaching her. "But it's all right at the same time. She can come to me at any time and let me know the things I need to do and encourage me to do it."

Dana also feels it is important for the development of girls hockey that more women become involved in

## AVIS PUBLIC

Le Comité d'examen (COMEX) tiendra une consultation publique sur le projet d'exploitation et de traitement de 900 000 TM de minerai d'or du site minier Bachelor. Le promoteur du projet est Ressources Métanor inc. Le projet est situé à proximité de Desmaraisville et Waswanipi.

La séance se tiendra le :

**22 mai 2012** : à la Maison des jeunes de Waswanipi à compter de 19 h.

Des copies de l'étude d'impact sur l'environnement et le milieu social seront mises à la disposition de la population au bureau du Conseil de bande de Waswanipi. Une version électronique peut être envoyée en transmettant la demande à [secretariat.comex@mddep.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:secretariat.comex@mddep.gouv.qc.ca). Afin de mieux planifier le déroulement des séances, nous apprécierions être avisés à l'avance de votre intention de présenter oralement vos commentaires sur le projet, au 418-521-3933, poste 4864 ou à l'adresse courriel indiqué précédemment.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Review Committee (COMEX) will hold a public consultation on the Bachelor mine site 900,000 MT gold ore exploitation and treatment project. The project proponent is Ressources Metanor Inc. The project is located close to Desmaraisville and Waswanipi.

The session will be held on :

**May 22nd 2012** : in Waswanipi at the Youth Center starting at 7:00 pm

Copies of the environmental and social impact study will be available for the population at the Band Council office in Waswanipi. An electronic version can be sent by sending a request at [secretariat.comex@mddep.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:secretariat.comex@mddep.gouv.qc.ca). In order to schedule more efficiently the sessions, we would appreciate being informed in advance of your intention to present an oral brief on the project, at the following number (418) 521-3933 ext. 4864 or at the previous email address.



Convention de la Baie-James et du Nord québécois  
James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement  
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Stornoway will undertake exploration and pre-development work at the Renard site over the following year.

We are seeking qualified people to be considered for the following positions:

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Candidates must be qualified for the job position or have some experience in a mine exploration or mine operation workplace. They must be self-motivated and dynamic, and must conform to the highest standards of health and safety. First aid training, health and safety on construction sites training, and the ability to communicate both in English and French are considered assets.

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**Hélène Robitaille**

Manager, Human Resources and Talent Development

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## UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

### Proud to be a tree hugger

by Xavier Kataquapit

One of the first signs of spring is the budding of the leaves on trees and bushes. It feels good after a long hard winter to realize that the sun is coming up earlier and setting a little later. Those darker days of winter are lightening up and the sun is warming us all.

A lot of people don't realize that up the James Bay coast as far as Attawapiskat and even further north, we are surrounded by all kinds of trees. Most of the forests in the far north are stunted because of the mushkeg swamplands and the long cold winter. A little further north there is tundra, which is more or less flat barren land that is almost treeless.

Spring in my mind has always meant the hunting of the goose. It is also been a time of renewal and I can remember feeling so happy to see the green buds coming up on the trees and bushes around Attawapiskat. There are actually forests of huge poplars, pines and all kinds of bushes close to major rivers. My awareness of trees has to do with being raised on the land and relying so much on them for survival.

The trees up the James Bay coast have provided my people the Cree with wood for fires and that has meant our survival in the frozen northland. We also used trees in the making of shelters such as the traditional askikan, a wood structure where logs are placed upright in a teepee formation, then covered in sod or thick layers of moss or peat. This structure is usually made in the fall and when the winter freeze sets in, the layers of solid log and frozen peat provide excellent insulation from the cold. Trees also provided the building materials for the MeeGwam (the Cree word for teepee) as well as providing the support structure for setting up a prospector tent.

During the spring flooding season, when families were caught out on the land in flood-prone areas, trees also provided the material to build scaffolding to raise a platform. When there was fear of flooding, these platforms were placed in safe

locations in the forest where river ice could not do any damage. Raising a teepee or prospector tent 10 or 12 feet off the ground provided a measure of protection from floodwaters in the deep forest.

No matter where I am when I am travelling on our wonderful planet, I often notice the scent of pine. This unique odour always reminds of the cozy, warm and comfortable pine-bough floors of the askikans, Meegwams or prospector tents I lived in when growing up on the land. There was no need for a fancy mattress back then because we could simply take the soft ends of pine boughs and expertly weave them into a thick mat for our flooring. Back in those days, I went to sleep with the scent of pine and then I awoke with it in the morning.

My non-Native friends often joke with me and call me a tree hugger. I think that comes from my great respect for trees. I don't like to cut down a tree unless I have a good reason and I am going to use the wood it provides. I don't believe in cutting vast territories of trees for a short-term profit. When I am travelling in Europe and other parts of the world, it is obvious to me that greed and short-term development led to the destruction of most of the natural forests in much of the developed world. We are fortunate in Canada that we have some of the largest and most diverse natural forests in the world. However, if you look at a satellite image online of any of our Canadian provinces, you will notice vast tracks where the land has been deforested. From the perspective of space, it actually looks ugly and I find it unsettling.

If we want to keep our natural forests and not end up in the same situation as many countries in this world we must make sure to harvest our forests in a way where we can preserve them for future generations. So I am a tree hugger when it comes right down to it. As a matter of fact I am proud to be a friend of the forest.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## BIRTHDAYS

I would like to wish a very happy birthday to my beautiful wife Lina P. MacLeod on April 25th, 2012. It has been 19 years since we were married, it'll be 20 years on July 24th. It has been a true blessing sharing this life with you and hope we have 100 more! Happy birthday Honey! From your husband Jonathan

Sending belated birthday wishes to our beautiful children: Happy 8th birthday to Katie Mistacheesick on March 27; happy 17th birthday to Gerald Shashaweskum on April 11; happy birthday to our baby Maria Mistacheesick who turned 3 years old on April 24. We also like to wish a happy 11th birthday to our oldest daughter Brianna Mistacheesick on June 1st. With love from Mom & Dad (Jeannette & Brian) in Wemindji.

We want to wish our son/brother Reginald Hester a Happy 10th birthday on May 3, 2012. We are very proud of you and we will always love you! From: your mom, dad and little sisters Rhonda & Roxanna <3

We want to wish a happy (belated) 75th birthday to Mina Pepabano, whose birthday was on April 25, 2012. All your life you have done things that have brought smiles to our faces. Today is your special day to sit back, relax and allow us to bring a smile to yours. Wishing you a very happy birthday, dear mom and many more years to come! We love you! From: Sharon, Philip and your grandchildren Josephine & Tyler Matoush

## EVENTS/RESOURCES

Art Workshops for Youth: If you are between the ages of 15 and 29 you are invited to develop your creativity in weekly stone carving workshops being conducted at the Inter-Tribal Youth Centre located at 2001 boul. St. Laurent corner Ontario street (downstairs in the building of the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal). Workshops are every Thursday from

3pm to 6pm. For further information call 514-499-1854.

Need a tutor? The Homework Help Program offers free one-on-one tutoring to Aboriginal youth. The program will match the needs of the Aboriginal youth to McGill students that have knowledge in a particular school subject. To sign up your child send an e-mail to [mcgillhomeworkhelp@gmail.com](mailto:mcgillhomeworkhelp@gmail.com) and let them know what grade your child is in and what subjects they need help with. The tutoring sessions will be held at the Inter-Tribal Youth Centre located downstairs at the Native Friendship Centre at 2001 St. Laurent Boulevard, corner Ontario street, between 4pm and 5:30pm on every Monday afternoon beginning in March 2012.

The Best Story Ever Told is part of the after school series for youth that the Inter-Tribal Youth Centre has teamed up on with McGill University's Aboriginal Sustainability Project. This is a chance for Aboriginal youth to express their stories through a series of different art and media projects in a creative and fun atmosphere. The free workshops will be held every Wednesday between 4pm and 5:30pm in March through June of 2012 at the Inter-Tribal Youth Centre located downstairs at the Native Friendship Centre at 2001 St. Laurent Boulevard, corner Ontario street. For more information send an email to [youth.coordinator@nfcsm.org](mailto:youth.coordinator@nfcsm.org) or call 514-499-1854 ext. 2229

Great Blue Heron Poetry Contest & Sheldon Currie Fiction Contest. \$2,400 in prizes to be won! Fiction entries must be postmarked by May 31, 2012 and poetry must be postmarked by June 30, 2012. All submissions must be mailed to: The Antigonish Review Contest, P.O. Box 5000, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada, B2G 2W5. For complete guidelines, email [TAR@stfx.ca](mailto:TAR@stfx.ca), call 902-867-3962 or visit our website at [www.antigonishreview.com](http://www.antigonishreview.com).

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Where to get help: bilingual, anonymous, confidential and free phone services, 24 hours a day 7 days a week.**

**Kid's Help Phone Line:** 1-800-668-6868

([www.kidshelpphone.ca](http://www.kidshelpphone.ca))

**Youth Helpline:** 1-800-263-2266

([www.teljeunes.com](http://www.teljeunes.com))

**Parents' Helpline:** 1-800-361-5085

([www.parentshelpline.ca](http://www.parentshelpline.ca))

**Missing Children's Network:**

They'll help you find kids who have run away or disappeared. 514-843-4333

([www.enfant-retourquebec.ca](http://www.enfant-retourquebec.ca))

**Drug Addiction help and reference:** 1-800-265-2626 ([www.drogue-aiderreference.qc.ca](http://www.drogue-aiderreference.qc.ca))

**Gambling Addiction help and reference:** 1-800-265-2626 ([www.info-reference.qc.ca](http://www.info-reference.qc.ca))

**S.O.S. Conjugal Violence:**

1-800-363-9010

([www.sosviolenceconjugale.com](http://www.sosviolenceconjugale.com))

**Health and Sexuality Resources**

**Center:** 1-888-855-7432 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) ([www.criss.org](http://www.criss.org))

**Gay Helpline:** 1-888-505-1010

(Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)

**The Native Women's Shelter of**

**Montreal:** 1-866-403-4688

([www.nwsm.info](http://www.nwsm.info))

**Suicide Action Québec:**

1-866-277-3553

([www.suicide-quebec.net/](http://www.suicide-quebec.net/))

**Residential School Survivors:** A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available to provide immediate emotional assistance and can be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at:

[www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources](http://www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources)









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